

elucidation is required, I might assure the House that my services are entirely at their disposal and I shall only be too glad to render whatever assistance that is required of me in this direction.

Accounts of 1103.

Though the budget estimates of revenue and expenditure for the year 1103, viz., Rs. 74,68,900 and Rs. 72,75,800 were expected to result in a surplus of Rs. 1,93,100 only, the actual transactions of the year, however, resulted in an increased surplus of Rs. 19,10,165, the total revenue and expenditure having been Rs. 86,24,293 and Rs. 67,14,128 respectively, thus showing an improvement of Rs. 17,17,065 in the surplus which was more or less anticipated when reviewing the revised estimates of 1103 at this time last year. I then said: "According to the revised estimates, the total revenue is fixed at Rs. 83,77,500 and the total expenditure is expected to be Rs. 71,83,600 thus raising the anticipated surplus to Rs. 11,93,900". The enhanced revenue was mainly brought about by the increase from 'Customs' under the Interportal Trade Convention, under 'Interest' owing to the collection of arrears and under 'Railway' on account of the increased traffic, while the fall from the anticipated expenditure was chiefly due to the fact that for several reasons the full budgetted programme of works could not be carried out in either the Agriculture and Panchayat or the Forests or the Public Works Departments. Other Departments also contributed to this decrease and I do not think it is necessary to dilate on this topic much further.

The State had, at the end of the year, a net asset of Rs. 75,81,753 after making due provision for all liabilities as against Rs. 56,71,588 at the beginning of the year. There were no loans outstanding at the beginning of the year nor were any fresh loans raised in the course of the year.

With these preliminary observations let me turn to the working of the current year.

Revised estimates of 1104.

The budget of the year, which is fast coming to a close, was framed on the expectation of realising a revenue of Rs. 77,06,200 and it provided for an aggregate expenditure of Rs. 74,16,400 leaving a surplus of Rs. 2,89,800. It is a matter for satisfaction that the revised estimate shows an improvement of Rs. 10,82,200 in revenue, the total revenue which is expected to be realised by the end of the year being Rs. 87,88,400. An increase in expenditure of Rs. 91,800 is, on the other hand, anticipated thus raising the total disbursements to Rs. 75,08,200.

The year is thus expected to close with a surplus of Rs. 12,80,200, i. e., Rs. 9,90,400 more than that anticipated at the time of the budget.

Receipts.

The main heads that go to contribute to the larger anticipated revenue are 'Customs', 'Railway', 'Forests' and 'Tramway'. In fixing the revenue under 'Customs' at Rs. 9,00,000 for the current year I observed:—"One cannot safely forecast whether the record receipt under 'Customs' which we have been able to realise in the current year would repeat itself next year and I am also positive that all of you will agree with me in thinking that it is hazardous to over-estimate receipts. We have, therefore, fixed the anticipated revenue under 'Customs' at Rs. 9 lakhs based more or less on the actuals of the last financial year as against Rs. 15,41,601 realised during the current year". That our fear was not altogether unfounded has been established by the fact that the realisation of this year has fallen by about a lakh of rupees though not to that extent we feared. Thus, against the actuals of Rs. 15,41,600 in 1103, we have been able to get only Rs. 14,43,700 in the current year under the Interportal Trade Convention—which, however, is in excess of our budget estimate by Rs. 5,43,700. 'Railway' is expected to bring in an enhanced revenue of Rs. 1,70,000 over the budget estimate of Rs. 12,30,000 chiefly on account of the increase in traffic. 'Forests' come next with an increased revenue of Rs. 6,65,300 thus exceeding the budget estimate of Rs. 5,22,200 by Rs. 1,43,100 mainly on account of the higher amounts fetched in the auction sale of forest growths from exclusions, etc. Under 'Tramway' an increase in revenue of Rs. 1,28,000 over the budget estimate of Rs. 15,000 is anticipated due mainly to the adjustment of the transport charges of timber carried for the Forest Department under the new system of accounting. A word of explanation on this may, I think, be not out of place. Till now, no such credit was being made so that to all appearances it would seem to a casual observer that the Tramway, which has to be considered as a mere commercial proposition, was bringing in only a poor revenue of a few thousands while it cost on an average more than a lakh of rupees for its very maintenance. It has been the practice of all Departments doing work for other Departments to get the necessary credit in their accounts for the works done to other Departments by adjustment; the Forest Department alone was giving no such credit to its sister Department for the transport of timber brought down on its behalf. If it was a private agency that was bringing down timber for the Forest Department, it